



Idaho's Safety Restraint Law

Beginning July 1, 2003, drivers and passengers in motor vehicles manufactured with safety restraints must be properly restrained. The changes to the existing law are as follows:

1. The law applies to all front and back seating positions.
2. All adult violators, 18 and older, in any seating position will receive a \$10 citation.
3. Adult drivers with any unbelted occupants under 18 years of age will receive a \$10 citation.
4. Drivers under 18 years old will be cited if **anyone** under 18 is not properly restrained. The fine will be \$10 plus court costs for a total of \$42.50.
5. While still a secondary law requiring an officer to make the traffic stop for another violation of law, the officer **may** write the safety restraint citation alone without the primary citation.

As a DRIVER,

be sure to buckle up. Not only is it the law, but in an emergency situation or crash, to control your vehicle you must be behind the steering wheel and not thrown elsewhere in or out of the vehicle! You owe it to your passengers and the rest of the motoring public to be responsible.

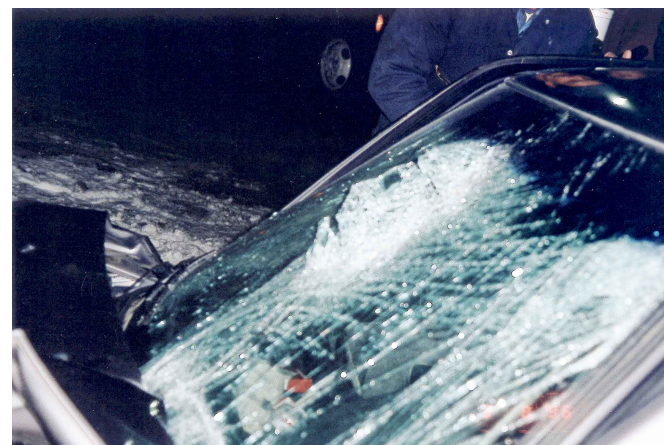


As a PASSENGER,

be sure to buckle up. Not only is it the law, but in an emergency situation or crash, it is a lot safer to stay secured in the vehicle. Don't get hurtled throughout the vehicle, through glass and steel, onto the pavement, into rocks and trees, or into the path of a rolling vehicle. You could be thrown as much as 150 feet – half a football field.

Costs to Idaho

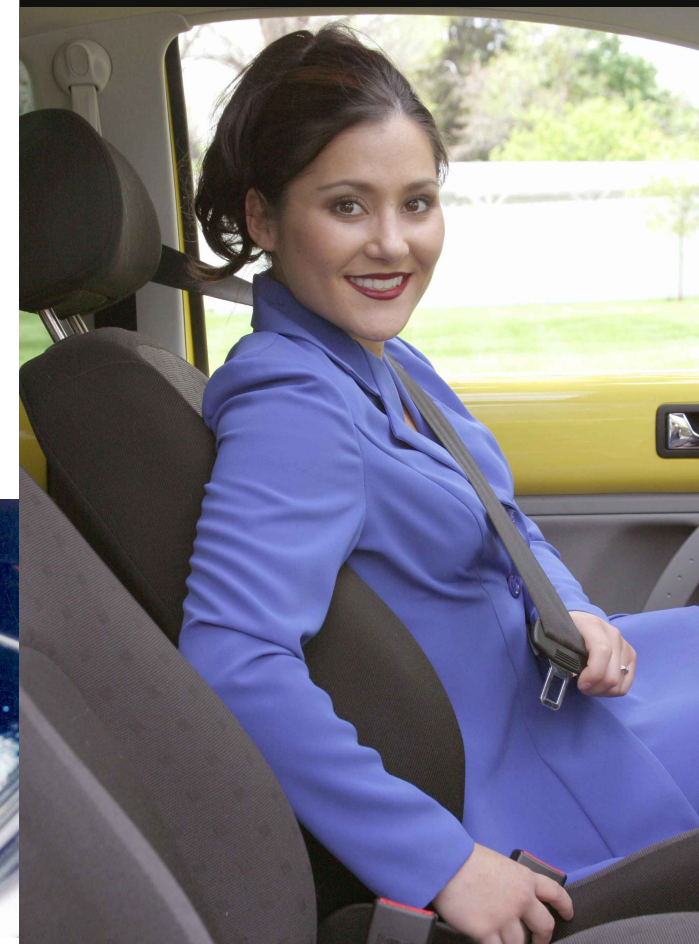
People injured in traffic crashes pay just 15 cents of each dollar of their medical bills. The remaining 85% of their medical costs fall on society, not on the individuals involved. These medical costs are paid primarily through your taxes and your insurance premiums. Hospital costs are 55% higher for those not wearing safety restraints. Don't be a burden on your friends, neighbors, and fellow Idahoans.



This lifesaving message is brought to you by the Idaho Transportation Department's Office of Highway Safety and your Law Enforcement Agencies.

We Care, so ...
CLICK IT, DON'T RISK IT!

You may need your safety restraint only once, BUT WHEN?



Why Wear a Safety Belt?

Your seat belt is your best defense against an aggressive, drunk, tired, or distracted driver. You may be an excellent driver, but you cannot control that oncoming vehicle.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons of every age from 4 through 33 years of age. Every day, five Idahoans are either killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes. More than two-thirds of those killed in Idaho in the last six years were not properly restrained. Had they just buckled up before that trip, half would still be alive today.

Safety restraints prevent deaths and serious injuries in traffic crashes. The air bag/seat belt combination is 85% effective at reducing moderate and serious head injuries in traffic crashes. Yet, 60% of Idaho's motor vehicle fatalities involve a serious head injury as an immediate or contributing factor for the traffic death.

The force of a 30-35 mph crash is equivalent to jumping from a three story building. Still, many think 35 mph is nothing, but have you jumped off a three story building lately?

Unbelted occupants frequently injure other occupants in a crash. Insist that everyone riding in your car buckle up. This will keep others safe when they're with you and may get them in the habit of wearing safety restraints.

What Safety Belts Do For You

Safety restraints, booster seats, and child safety seats help prevent injury five different ways:

- 1. Prevent ejection,
- 2. Shift crash forces to the strongest parts of the body's structure,
- 3. Spread forces over a wide area of the body,
- 4. Allow the body to slow down gradually, and
- 5. Protect the head and spinal cord.

Wear It Properly

Improper usage of your safety restraint is illegal, and unsafe, and could lead to serious internal injuries or death. Fasten both shoulder and lap belt securely and wear the shoulder belt across the front of your shoulder. The lap belt should be worn low, across the pelvis.

Safety restraints will not work properly if your seat back is reclined or if you are slouched in your seat. Sit all the way back in the seat with the seat back in an upright but comfortable position.

It is safe and important for pregnant women to wear safety restraints. When worn correctly, placed low and under the belly, safety restraints protect the mother and unborn baby from devastating impacts if unrestrained in a traffic crash.

Airbag Safety

Airbags are designed to work with safety restraints. They are not a substitute for them. Most airbags inflate only during frontal crashes and protect you very little during side, rear, or rollover collisions. Most adult occupants seriously or fatally injured by air bags are unbelted and placed out-of-position into the airbag deployment path.

Fear of Ejection

You would be wise to fear ejection from your vehicle in a traffic crash. In fatal crashes, 75 percent of occupants totally ejected are killed. Some are crushed by their own vehicle. Safety restraints are effective in preventing ejections.

Fear of Being Trapped

Most crash fatalities result from the force of impact or from being thrown from the vehicle, not from being trapped. By wearing your safety restraint, you are more likely to be unhurt, alert, and capable of getting yourself and your passengers out of a dangerous situation.

Child Passenger Safety

Your children learn by example. If you don't buckle up, your children may not when they are old enough to restrain themselves. Set a life-saving example for them, and make wearing safety restraints a family policy. This could protect your loved ones no matter whose car they are in.

Children should progress through three types of child safety seats until they are physically developed enough to ride restrained by adult seat belts.

- 1. Rear- Facing Infant Seats (Birth–20 pounds and under 1 year old)
- 2. Forward-Facing Child Safety Seats (20-40 pounds)
- 3. Booster Seats (40-80 pounds)

Booster Seats: Children who have completely outgrown their car seats should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until an adult seat belt fits them properly (usually 4' 9" and 80 pounds, about 8 years old). Children 4 to 8 years old are four times more likely to suffer a serious head injury while being restrained in a seat belt alone, rather than a booster seat with a lap/shoulder belt combination.

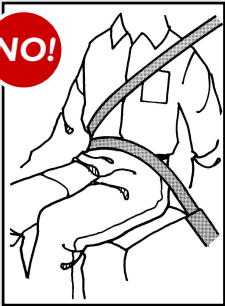
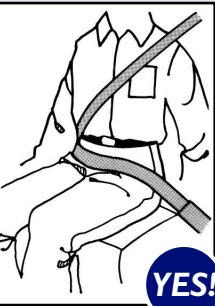
ALL children under 13 years of age and less than 100 pounds should ride properly restrained in the back seat, and NEVER in front of an air bag.

The Correct Way to Wear a Safety Belt

WEAR IT LOW

The lap portion of the safety belt should be two to four inches below the waist, snug across your hip and pelvic bones — NOT across your stomach.

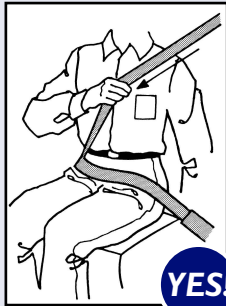
In a crash, a belt worn too high on the abdomen places you at high risk of potentially fatal internal injuries.



WEAR IT SNUG

The shoulder portion should rest smoothly over your collarbone and across your chest and shoulders. Pull the belt out and let it retract to remove slack.

Safety belt webbing will stretch slightly in a crash. If not snug before the crash, you may slide under and out or up and over the belt.



WEAR IT RIGHT

If the belt rubs against the neck, try changing the seat position or the way you sit. Some vehicles have a shoulder belt adjusters which slide up or down to provide a correct, comfortable fit.

Belt extenders may also be purchased. Some cars feature a shoulder belt that automatically comes across your chest, but you must fasten the lap portion manually to achieve proper use.

Safety belts should be worn over the front of the shoulder, never behind your back or under your arm.

